

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Interview

Applicant appreciates the courtesy extended by the examiner in the telephonic interview on December 22, 2009, discussing filing a Supplemental Amendment to place the instant application in condition for allowance.

Status of Claims

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-5, 9 and 11. Claims 1, 2-8 and 10-12 are pending in the present application.

Applicant herein amends independent claims 1 and 7 with the allowable subject matter of claim 2 and 9, respectively. Claims 2 and 9 are herein cancelled. Further, Applicant amends claims 3-5 and 11 to correct dependency thereof. No new matter has been entered.

In view of amendments owing to the incorporation of allowable subject matter in independent claims 1 and 7 and their dependent claims, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is no longer viable. Therefore, Applicant submits that this amendment places the claims in the present application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Application No.: 10/578,301
Art Unit: 2611

Amendment under 37 CFR §1.116
Attorney Docket No.: 062506

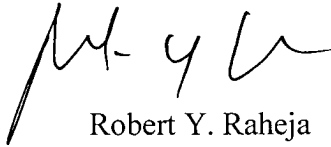
Conclusion

Applicant believes that this paper is responsive to each and every ground of rejection cited in the Office Action dated September 3, 2009, and respectfully request favorable action in this application. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Robert Y. Raheja
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 59,274
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

RYR/bam